

TRIBUTE TO CHLOE JANE SWEET

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birth of Chloe Jane Sweet. Chloe was born on September 3, 2006 to her very proud parents and my good friends, Julie and Chad.

There is no accomplishment or gift greater in life than the birth of a son or daughter. As the father of five wonderful children who are the light of my life, I know how happy and fulfilled Julie and Chad are to have a healthy and beautiful newborn baby daughter.

It is my hope, and the hope of all of their friends and family, that they continue to be blessed with the great fortune they have enjoyed in the birth of Chloe Jane.

Linda, my children and I wish them all the best as Julie and Chad begin their lives as Chloe's parents, and as Chloe begins her life as their daughter.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING NATIONAL MEMORIAL AT WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE TO COMMEMORATE AND MOURN EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 26, 1993, AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks of 9/11 left voids in our lives that can never be filled. Almost 3,000 families lost a loved one—sons, daughters, fathers and mothers who were taken too soon. New York City, my hometown, lost beloved residents, protectors and leaders. Our city, and our country, also lost an icon and symbol of our nation—the World Trade Center.

The hole where the World Trade Center once stood remains a somber reminder of those we lost and the heartache 9/11 has caused. Lower Manhattan and Ground Zero are being redeveloped in order to keep our city's economy strong and show our resilience and resolve. At the same time, the footprints of the Twin Towers have been preserved and designated for a permanent 9/11 memorial.

The men and women we lost on 9/11 must be honored with a poignant and thoughtful memorial. The one that is being developed is exactly that.

We must support the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation as it constructs the tribute to our fallen friends and neighbors. While we can never refill the voids left on 9/11, we can keep their memories alive forever.

When the work is completed and the memorial is opened, we will have an ever-lasting site to remember 9/11 and those who we lost. This is the way it should be—we must never forget.

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2001

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this anniversary is first, last, and always, a day of remembrance. The shock and horror of that day has diminished. But the sorrow and sadness is still present in our hearts. The mountains of debris are gone from the place where the towers of the World Trade Center once defined the skyline. But Ground Zero and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, are burial grounds still, where grief is palpable. Two Utahns were aboard one of the hijacked planes that struck the first Tower; another Utahn died at his job in the Pentagon when a third jet crashed into it. People from many other countries also died that morning. In the hours and days following the tragedy, it seemed that much of the world mourned.

The passing days brought much heartache and—ever so gradually—glimmers of hope. The heroes of 9/11—members of the New York and Port Authority police departments, and the New York City Firefighters—replaced the frightening images of the hijackers. From across this country, ordinary people put comfortable lives on hold in order to join the rescue and recovery effort. Twenty people were pulled alive from the debris. For a time, all Americans put aside their differences and united in the desire to make life better for the survivors.

The families and friends of the victims of 9/11 will always—in the words of poet ee cummings “carry your heart (I carry it in my heart).” For the rest of us, a fitting tribute to their memory may be to renew our desire to put aside contention and partisanship. We honor them when we adopt their “can-do” spirit and strive—as one nation—to make America the beacon of hope it has always been.

HONORING MARY ELLEN MENAPACE**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mary Ellen Menapace, who was chosen “New Mexico's Outstanding Older Worker of 2006.” At the young age of 87, she continues to work and is currently the deputy village clerk of the village of Roy, located in eastern New Mexico, serving the residents with great honor, pride and distinction.

With only a few years' exception, Mrs. Menapace has worked continually since she was a high school student. She was only 17 when she began her first full-time job. Beginning in 1934, Mrs. Menapace's positions have been many and varied, including employment for the New Mexico State Health and Welfare Department, an abstract company, the Selective Service System during World War II and as a deputy county and court clerk, payroll clerk, secretary and an office manager. She proudly states that the key to her professional

longevity and success has been the enjoyment she experienced in each and every job, and the total dedication she always gave during her many years of employment.

Noting all the advancements that have transpired in the workplace since high school, Mrs. Menapace's early years involved the use of a manual typewriter rather than a computer, carbon paper instead of a copier, and Gregg shorthand instead of e-mail. As the years passed, she committed to being the best she could be in every position she ever held. In order to accomplish that goal, and as office work became more technically advanced, Mrs. Menapace diligently took advantage of all training provided in order to enhance her knowledge and to improve her skills.

Mrs. Menapace could have completely retired at many junctures but instead chose to continue contributing to the betterment of her community. Her current position requires that she locate resources to fund village projects. One particular example of her success was securing grants to purchase trees and flowers to landscape both the main street and village park of Roy as part of the “Keep New Mexico Beautiful” State program. Another accomplishment was securing funds to purchase 75 trees that were planted to shield and shelter Roy's solid waste station.

Mary Ellen Menapace is truly a most remarkable lady. She helped support her parents and siblings during the Great Depression, was the sole provider for her own family during her husband's long illness and subsequent death, and is, herself, a cancer survivor. A devoted grandmother, she takes great pride and gratification that her later employment enabled her to raise and educate a grandson as well as assist a granddaughter-in-law in finishing law school. With all these responsibilities, Mrs. Menapace has somehow managed to be active in her community, in civic and professional organizations, and in her church. Another amazing talent is writing award-winning poetry and short stories, a gift she inherited from her father, who, she proudly proclaims, was also an agriculture and veterinary science visionary.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me in giving tribute to Mary Ellen Menapace. She is an invaluable employee, a loving family member, a devoted member of her community, an exceptional New Mexican, and an honored American.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JESUS M. SIERRA**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jesus M. Sierra, beloved husband of Catherine. M. Mass Sierra for 24 years, loving father of Jesus M. Sierra Jr., Abraham Sierra, Marta I. Sierra, Janina E. Sierra, Nicholas Sierra, and Adam Eric, and caring grandfather of 11, who passed away on Sunday August 13, 2006.

Dr. Sierra was the founder and former Executive Director of the Asociacion Puertorriquenos en Marcha (APM). A tireless advocate of Latino rights, his contribution to his dearly loved Puerto Rican community cannot be measured. His deep belief in the provision of critical needs: health, human services,

and housing drove his work with the APM. Jesus was a pioneer in his efforts to help Philadelphia's poorest citizens advocating the use of economic development tools to fight racism, create equal opportunity for Latinos, and to generate change.

His founding of the APM is an accomplishment that will continue to have a positive impact into the future. Jesus headed this organization for 33 years and his indefatigable labors in building it from a two person office on Germantown Avenue to the largest non-profit development corporation in Pennsylvania is to be admired. His work directly saved countless lives and his contribution will continue to provide hope to thousands more. In tribute to a wonderful father, husband, and pillar of the Puerto Rican Community, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him and all of his accomplishments.

THE LOSS OF SGT. MOISES
JAZMIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave soldier in Iraq, Sergeant Moises Jazmin, a Rhode Island resident who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Sergeant Jazmin grew up in Providence, RI, and attended Central High School until he enlisted in the Army at the age of 17. He is remembered as a committed and loving member of his tight-knit family.

Sergeant Jazmin was serving in Iraq in the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division. On Sunday, August 27, he was on patrol when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The blast killed him and three other soldiers in his unit.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When Sergeant Jazmin's nation called him to duty, he answered without hesitation. We will remember him as a patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Sergeant Jazmin is survived by his parents, Leon and Rosa, and many other friends and family members. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period. We will also continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

JACK HARDIN DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of "Jack Hardin Day" which was cele-

brated in many towns in my District recently. No one is more deserving of this honor than the man for which the day was named—a man who has served southern West Virginia, both as a journalist and as a community activist, for more than 50 years.

Jack Hardin is an icon, an institution, to the people of Huntington, WV., and beyond. It was fitting then, that on Jack Hardin Day, also Jack's 80th birthday, the members of the community came together for a good-natured roasting of their favorite son. It is also fitting that the proceeds of this roast went to an important charity—the Hospitality House of Huntington. Jack wouldn't have had it any other way.

While I was unable to attend the roast of my friend Jack Hardin, I would have loved to have been there to hear the tales, the teasing and what I am sure was a good amount of praise for a man who has become a role model to so many.

Jack Hardin is a moral man, a family man, and southern West Virginia is lucky to have him. I thank Jack for his contributions to our area over the years and commend the community of Huntington and Jack's family for coming together to put together a celebration worthy of such a man.

May this be the first of many "Jack Hardin Days."

9/11 FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, this week we mark the fifth anniversary of the tragic and unprecedented events of September 11, 2001. On this fateful day, we lost not only thousands of our fellow citizens, but a piece of our innocence as well.

On behalf of my constituents of the 37th District of California, I affirm that we will not forget those who lost their lives on that dreadful day. We offer our heartfelt prayers to the families of the victims, and assure them that time has not dulled our deepest sympathies. We shall never fully recover from the loss of so many of our best and bravest and brightest.

This attack on our homeland showed us that great vigilance and effort are required to prevent terrorists from realizing their murderous aims. This important lesson was paid for dearly, and we owe it to all those who lost their lives to continue to work to protect our country from another attack.

In particular, I am acutely aware of the need to secure our Nation's ports, as my District is adjacent to the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles, which are among our Nation's busiest. Some 95 percent of American trade enters the U.S. through 1 of 361 seaports on board over 8,500 foreign vessels and makes more than 55,000 port calls per year, which total worth is nearly \$1 trillion. It is our duty to protect America's ports which remain highly vulnerable targets. In fact, over 52 percent of all waterborne cargo moves through the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles

alone. Securing these and the rest of America's ports as well as the economic contributions they make must remain a top priority for each of us.

As such, I am pleased that Congress is finally working on a bipartisan basis to address this gaping hole in our security. I am a proud supporter of the SAFE Port Act, which would appropriate a dedicated stream of port security funding. I look forward to continuing to work on this important issue with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

I appeal to all Members of Congress to work toward these goals in the spirit of unity that we felt so poignantly 5 years ago in the wake of the terrorist attacks. This is really the greatest honor we could offer the victims of that day.

THE LOSS OF LANCE CORPORAL
ERIC VALDEPEÑAS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave Marine in Iraq, Lance Corporal Eric Valdepeñas, who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island and Massachusetts in mourning this great loss.

Lance Corporal Valdepeñas, a resident of Seekonk, Massachusetts, was a graduate of Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, Rhode Island, my own alma mater. He was an honors student and co-captain of the school's championship lacrosse team. He is remembered by his teachers and classmates as having tremendous energy and an exceptional character. After high school, he attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and was pursuing an engineering degree when his Marine Reserve unit was called up in December 2005.

Lance Corporal Valdepeñas served with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. He demonstrated the same commitment and positive attitude in Iraq that his family and friends knew well, and he earned numerous military awards, including the Purple Heart. On September 4, while on patrol in al Anbar province, an improvised explosive device detonated next to his vehicle, killing him and two other Marines.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When Lance Corporal Valdepeñas's nation called him to duty, he answered without hesitation. We will remember him as a patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

He is survived by his parents, Jesus and Ann-Marie, and seven siblings Marie Drury, Karen Ing, Nora Lough, and Teresa, Edna-Anne, Neil, and Sean Valdepeñas. They will remember his great love for his family, his loyalty and his kindness. May we keep them and other friends and family in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period. We will also continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.